

(I'm watching you.)



LET'S PUT SOME MAGIC INTO YOUR JUDO - *Part I*

As a lifetime devotee of magic, author of the book, *Misdirection for Close-Up Magicians*, and once-upon-a-time working professional conjurer, I can say this: There is magic in judo. Let's examine a single aspect of the popular principle of magic, misdirection. A maxim of misdirection is, "The larger action covers the smaller one." Simply, let's say I want to do something tricky with a deck of cards I am holding. If standing, I might turn my entire upper body to place the cards on the table to my left. At that point, in that moment, the dirty work is accomplished. Too simple.

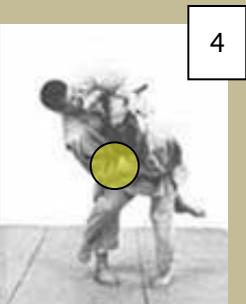
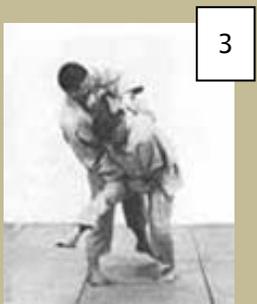
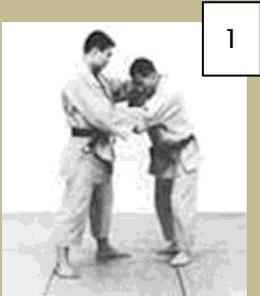


Hane Goshi: It took me years to get the hang of this throw. If only I'd known then what I know and teach now. In this photo one sees the high lifting leg. With action, live or on video, the larger action of the leg draws even more attention. So often, I attained the correct form up to the point of making the leg lift, and then everything went bad. I

thought it was wall about that darn leg. Success comes when the head is used in an up-and-over action, looking at uke, then directly upward, then over the top and toward the intended landing point. Most turn their head from side to side, left to right in this case, which destroys the architecture of the throw at the moment of transfer from *tsukuri* to *kake*.



In this sequence of M. Kimura's devastating *o-soto-gari*, the powerful leg reap is awesome to behold. It draws attention, compels the eye to see it. Yet, what small thing is consistent throughout? It is what many judoka learning *o-soto* miss, and wonder why their own devastating leg reap isn't working. Kimura's left hand is critical to all phases. It inconspicuously goes to one place, and it stays there. Without that, the throw will fail.



Almost without exception, every judo technique contains elements we are disinclined to see, because the larger motion steals our primary attention. It is our nature. Self-misdirection challenges effective judo learning. In magic, you can know this, and still be fooled by a good magician. In judo, since you are tricking yourself, your chances of detection are as good as your diligence.

Next issue: *Using Misdirection to Fool Your Opponent ~ Like a Magician*